

# gwinnettcounty CONNECTION

a monthly publication of **gwinnettcounty** government

OCTOBER 2015



## County officials launch initiative to reduce litter in Gwinnett

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, in partnership with Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful, recently launched an initiative to develop and foster a sense of ownership and stewardship of public lands. The **ME (My Environment) Campaign** encourages Gwinnett residents and commuters to do their part to prevent litter along rights of way, medians, and streams that tend to be littered and used as dumping grounds.

The campaign kicked off in September at the intersection of Beaver Ruin Road and Steve Reynolds Boulevard, which is one of three sites in the Beaver Ruin watershed where officials have noticed an increase in litter along roadsides over the past year. The litter eventually makes its way into storm-water drains and nearby waterways and negatively impacts the county's social, economic, and environmental health.

Visit [www.gwinnettcbo.org](http://www.gwinnettcbo.org) to learn more about the ME Campaign and watch for details on how you can take action to reduce litter and illegal dumping along roadsides and streams.

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Explore your next career move with Gwinnett County Government

Are you starting your career or considering a career change? Your next opportunity may be with Gwinnett County Government! Come to the 2015 Career Expo on **Friday, October 23 from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville.** Meet face-to-face with department representatives and learn how you can begin your career with Gwinnett County Government. The County offers rewarding job opportunities in many areas, including information technology, accounting and finance, administrative/clerical, protective services, engineering, project management, and technical and field services. Vacancies are currently listed online, so apply today at [www.gwinnettcbojobs.com](http://www.gwinnettcbojobs.com).

### Veterans Day Ceremony honors Gwinnett's veterans and fallen heroes

Gwinnett County will host its annual Veterans Day Ceremony on **Wednesday, November 11 at 11:00am at the Gwinnett Fallen Heroes Memorial, located on the grounds of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville.** Join in paying tribute to the men and women who have served honorably in the military, during wartime or peacetime, and to remember the fallen heroes who have sacrificed their lives to protect our nation.



### FOCUS ON: Quality of Life Unit

*FOCUS ON* is a monthly feature that tells how your county government employees focus on providing high-quality services to you each and every day. This month features the Quality of Life Unit, which enforces County ordinances covering such things as property maintenance, signs, solid waste, and vacant property in unincorporated parts of Gwinnett. To read more, visit [www.gwinnettcbo.com](http://www.gwinnettcbo.com).

### County offices closed: Veterans Day

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of the residents of the county, will be closed **Wednesday, November 11** for Veterans Day. All offices will resume regular working hours **Thursday, November 12.** A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center. Trash collection in unincorporated Gwinnett County is scheduled as normal.

Explore Gwinnett is Gwinnett's official tourism agency and promotes Gwinnett as a place to meet, stay, and play.

View the complete events calendar at [www.exploreGwinnett.org](http://www.exploreGwinnett.org).

### It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play

December 3 – 20

Thursday – Saturday • 8:00pm

Sunday • 3:00pm

Buford Community Center – Sylvia Beard Theatre  
2200 Buford Highway, Buford

### Gwinnett Ballet Theatre presents *The Nutcracker*

December 4 – 20

Friday • 7:30pm

Saturday • 2:30pm and 7:30pm

Sunday • 2:30pm

Infinite Energy Theater  
6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth

### Wit

January 14 – February 7

Wednesday – Saturday • 8:00pm

Saturday and Sunday • 2:30pm

Aurora Theatre  
128 Pike Street, Lawrenceville

Special election will be held November 3

[www.gwinnettelelections.com](http://www.gwinnettelelections.com)

### gwinnettcounty connection

send questions or comments to  
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Gwinnett County Communications Division  
75 Langley Drive • Lawrenceville, GA 30046  
770.822.7180 • [www.gwinnettcbo.com](http://www.gwinnettcbo.com)

Questions about your water bill? Call 678.376.6700.



## New classroom coming to Environmental and Heritage Center

The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center will convert existing storage space to build a new classroom and educator workroom. The Board of Commissioners approved a \$409,506 contract in September with low bidder, Bayne Development Group LLC. The 2014 SPLOST program is funding the work.

Educational programming doubled during the last year, causing the center to reach capacity. The EHC offers classes and special events for K-12 students, homeschoolers, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and seniors, plus it holds exhibits, symposiums, and community events for the general public.

Existing storage and open space will be converted into classrooms and teacher workroom space. Construction will begin in October and finish by the end of the year.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Help kids have a fun, safe Halloween

No Halloween celebration is complete without a great costume. Costumes can be both creative and safe, so here are some tips to ensure your children are ready for a fun, safe Halloween:

- Make sure your kids' costumes are visible to motorists by choose costumes that are light or bright-colored, or use glow sticks or reflective tape.
- Children should wear well-fitting, sturdy shoes.
- Secure hats and scarves to prevent them from slipping over children's eyes.
- Avoid loose-fitting masks that may restrict breathing or obscure vision.
- Swords, knives, and similar accessories should be made of soft, flexible material.

Drivers, slow down in neighborhoods and be on alert for children, especially during peak trick-or-treating hours.

Learn more at [www.gwinnettsafety411.com](http://www.gwinnettsafety411.com).



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Don't flush "flushable" wipes

Sewer backups can happen all over the county in both residential and commercial buildings, but there are many ways to prevent them. You've heard of fats, oils, and grease, or FOG, which is the primary culprit of sewer backups. It's easy to fight FOG—simply reduce the amount that goes down the drain by wiping dishes with a paper towel and pouring liquid grease and oils into containers that you throw away in the trash. Be aware though, there's another cause to sewer backups that you may think is safe for sewer systems.

Materials such as standard toilet paper will easily break down, but many items made from cotton, polyester, plastics, or latex that may be labeled as "flushable" take much longer to degrade. While these items may go down the drain, they will stay inside pipes and settle in sewer or lateral lines that connect your home to the sewer. These materials also give fats, oils, and grease something to hold onto while passing through the sewer system. Rags, cloths, and wipes—including toilet wipes—can also clog sewer pumps and cause them to fail.

Gwinnett County has more than 200 sewer pumps that could cause major sewer overflows if they stop working. Backups and overflows are expensive, messy, and can have a negative effect on the environment. Outdoor backups will often overflow into local waterways, causing unsanitary water and unsafe conditions for residents and wildlife. As the holidays are approaching, be sure to only flush standard toilet paper and keep FOG out of the drain. By doing your part, you can be thankful for a backup free holiday season!

Don't forget to attend our free workshop!

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Redesigned Tax Commissioner website is mobile-friendly

The Tax Commissioner's office launched a brand new [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com) in June, and in addition to its brand new look, it's now mobile-friendly! Another added feature is the ability to translate the site into 90 different languages using Google Translate. Check it out!

## CHECK IT OUT

Check out these stories about stories and story writers. These and other titles are available at your nearest Gwinnett County Public Library branch, [www.gwinnettpl.org](http://www.gwinnettpl.org).

*Mastering the Game of Thrones: Essays on George R.R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire*

*The Brontë Cabinet: Three Lives in Nine Objects*, by Deborah Lutz

*Broadcast Hysteria: Orson Welles's "War of the Worlds" and the Art of Fake News*, by A. Brad Schwartz

*The Fellowship: The Literary Lives of the Inklings: J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Owen Barfield, Charles Williams*, by Philip Zaleski

## Department of Water Resources • Free Workshop! Detention Pond Maintenance

November 12, 2015 • 7:00pm to 8:30pm  
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center  
Auditorium  
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Learn about the purpose, function, and aesthetic value of your detention pond along with some troubleshooting tips. Attendees from unincorporated Gwinnett County, city of Lilburn, or city of Peachtree Corners can qualify for a maximum 5 percent credit toward their stormwater utility fee for the following year.

Pre-register by emailing your name, address, and phone number to [dwrswreg@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:dwrswreg@gwinnettcountry.com) or by calling 678.376.7193 (press 5).